

FORDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILREPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE  
31st DECEMBER 1950

TO the Sanitary Authority of the Forden Rural District

Mr Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my  
Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Forden  
Rural District for the year ended 31st December 1950.

The report is drawn up in accordance with  
the instructions contained in the Welsh Board of Health Circular  
No 112/50(Wales).

1. VITAL STATISTICS

AREA of the District 49.774 acres

POPULATION 4974 ( mid-year estimate) an increase of  
7 on the figure given for 1949

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	Legitimate	41.	34	75.
	Illegitimate	1.	2.	3
	Total	<u>42.</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>78</u>

STILL BIRTHS

	Legitimate	-	1	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
	Total	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

BIRTH RATESLIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1000 estimated population) 15.7

(compared with 15.8 for England and Wales)

STILL BIRTH RATE ( per 1000 estimated population) 0.20

(compared with 0.37 for England and Wales)

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	27	33	60

DEATH RATE (per 100 estimated civilian population) 12.1

(compared with 11.6 for England and Wales)

<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	2	0	2.
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	1	0	1

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1000 Live Births) 38.4

Compared with 29.8 for England and Wales)

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<u>COMPARATIVE STATISTICS</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Population	4894	4967	4974
Live Birth Rate	19. 8	16.3	15.7
Still Birth Rate	0.40	0.60	0.20
Death Rate	11. 4	11. 7	12.11
Infant Mortality Rate	51.0	37. 0	38.4

<u>2. CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5.	7.	12
Coronary Disease, Angina	4.	0.	4
Hypertension with heart disease	0.	1.	1.
Other Heart Diseases	8.	11.	19.
Other Circulatory Disease	0.	3.	3.
Influenza	0.	1.	1.
Pneumonia	0.	1.	1.
Malignant Disease of the Stomach	1.	1.	2.
Malignant Disease of the Lung	1.	0.	1.
Malignant Disease of the Breast	0.	2.	2.
Malignant Disease of the Uterus	0.	1.	1.
Other Malignant Diseases	2.	2.	4.
Nephritis	0.	1.	1.
Disease of the Prostate	1.	0.	1.
Accident	1.	0.	1.
Other defined and ill-defined disease	4.	2.	6.
Totals	27.	33.	60

### 3. INFECTIONS DISEASES

During the year the following Infectious Diseases were notified

Scarlet Fever	2 cases
Pneumonia	2 "
Acute Poliomyelitis	2 "
Measles	1. "
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2 "

By arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health, cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) are, when necessary, admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Monkmoor, near Shrewsbury.

Tuberculosis All cases of suspected Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis are referred by the General Practitioners to the Chest Physician, Dr G.O Thomas, Clinics are held at the Welshpool Hospital on the first and third Mondays in each month at 10 a.m. The Physician also visits patients at their homes (by arrangement with their Medical Attendants) and maintains supervision of all tubercular patients during the course of their illness. Patients from this area are treated at the Chest Hospital, Machynlloeth, the North Wales sanatorium, Denbigh, and the South Wales Sanatorium Talgarth, Breconshire.

The Chest Physician is also available for consultation in all cases of Chest Disease, other than Tuberculosis.

I wish to thank him for the excellent work he continued to do in the District, and for his willing help and co-operation at all times.





#### 4. LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART 3 OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946

Ante-natal and post-natal care is provided by the Medical Practitioners of the district, and clinics are also held each week at the Hospitals serving the area.

The Domiciliary Midwifery Service is very efficiently carried on by the District Nurses under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held monthly at various centres under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Vaccination against Small Pox and immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at these clinics, and is a service which is also provided by the General Practitioners of the District.

#### SPECIALIST SERVICES

The following Clinics are held each month at the Welshpool Hospital by the respective Consulting Specialists.

MEDICAL . Dr Phillip Evans M.D M.R.C.P  
1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each Month at 2.0 p.m.

SURGICAL . Mr J.E Spalding M.S. F.R.C.S  
Fourth Friday in each month at 10.0 a.m.

EAR NOSE AND THROAT DISEASES Mr R.B Barraclough F.R.C.S  
2nd and 4th Mondays in each month at 2.0 p.m.

CHEST DISEASES Dr G.O Thomas M.D  
1st and 3rd Mondays at 10.0 a.m.

All Medical Practitioners in the District can send any patient to these Clinics for Specialists Opinion.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE A Psychiatric Clinic is held each Monday afternoon at the County Infirmary Newtown where patients are seen by appointment by the visiting Psychiatrist Dr B.J. Hand.

VENEREAL DISEASES These are not notifiable in this area, but any case brought to my notice is referred to the V.D Clinic at Shrewsbury for treatment.

#### SANITARY REVIEW OF THE AREA

##### SECTION "C" WATER

During the Summer of 1950, there was a heavier than average rainfall, and no complaints as to shortage were received from any part of the District.

BERELW The piped supply from Llanfawell Spring was sufficient for the Village, and the fourteen Council houses situated therein. Work on the new scheme for improving the water supply, both in quantity and quality, commenced in November 1950. This scheme provides for the laying of new water mains, the installation of a Chlorinating plant, and the pumping into a reservoir with a capacity of 10,600 gallons. The Chlorinating plant is considered necessary as successive samples of water taken have been reported upon as being Bacteriologically suspicious.

If at a later date, observations show that there is sufficient water available for the purpose, the provision of a Sewage Disposal Plant for the Village will be considered.



CHURCHSTOKE There was again an abundant piped supply available for the tenants of Pentrenant Small Holdings, owned by the County Council. On the Council's Housing Site, the borehole situated there is capable of being pumped at the rate of 12,000 gallons per 24 hours, so there is an ample supply for the fourteen existing houses, and for the additional twenty which it is proposed to build.

During the year, the water supply was laid on to the six pre-war houses on this site, and also to the School, School House, and the Police Station.

LEIGHTON Here the piped supply, jointly owned by private users, was satisfactory as to quantity. A site has been selected on which it is proposed to build six houses. A borehole was put down 70 feet deep, the lower 55 feet of which was through rock, and the result was disappointing. Only 700 gallons per 24 hours was obtainable, and this was located 15 feet below the ground surface.

It is intended to apply a further pumping test after a period of dry weather, and if the yield does not fall below the 700 gallons per 24 hours, the question of sinking a well to a depth of 20 feet will be considered.

ABERMULE A plentiful supply of wholesome water is piped to the four houses owned by the Council. It has been decided to put down another trial hole on the original housing site selected, at some distance from the first borehole, which proved to be unsatisfactory.

FORDEN (LEIGHTON ROAD SITE) An adequate and satisfactory supply is available from a Borehole to the ten Council houses on this site.

FORDEN (CHURCH SITE) - An adequate and satisfactory supply is available to the sixteen Airey Type houses on this site.

MIDDLETOWN - Here a good supply is available from a well, and it will be gravitated to a further fourteen houses which it is proposed to build, in addition to the six houses which are occupied.

A Village Hall which it is proposed to erect will also be supplied. The well from which the supply is obtained has been lined with concrete tubing, and a reservoir from which premises will be or are being supplied, has been constructed. The work of installing the chlorinating plant is not yet completed.

BAUSLEY - A good supply is available from a Borehole on a housing site which has recently been acquired by the Council.

LLANDYSSIL - A plentiful supply is available from a Borehole on the Housing Site. A continuous 168 hours pumping test at the rate of 12,480 gallons per 24 hours has been carried out.

#### NEW HOUSES

BERRIEW (VICARAGE SITE)

During the year four more houses were built on this site, and arrangements have been made for the building of two more, which will fill on the site.

BERRIEW (DUFFRYN LANE SITE) - The work of building two more houses on this site is practically completed.





CHURCHSTOKE - Tenders have been invited for the work of building twenty traditional type houses on the site owned by the Council, but so far no price has been low enough to be acceptable by the Ministry. Efforts have been made to negotiate prices with builders, but without success. The Council is now considering the question of erecting permanent pre-fabricated houses, such as the "Cornish" house.

MIDDLETOWN - Work is in progress on the building of six traditional type houses, and the building of four more will shortly commence. Efforts have been made to obtain a suitable price for the building of a further ten houses, but without results.

FORDEN (CHURCH SITE) - Sixteen Alry Type houses were erected during the year.

LLANDYSSIL - Work commenced on the building of twenty traditional type houses, and good progress was made.

ABERMULE - It is now proposed to sink another Borehole, and if a satisfactory supply of water is available, the question of building twenty houses, on the original site selected, will be considered.

LEIGHTON - During the year, two houses were built by the Milk Marketing Board. On the Council's site, a Borehole was sunk and further pumping tests will be made. If it is found that sufficient water is available, six houses will be built.

BAUSLEY - Here a site has been acquired, and it is proposed to build thirty two houses and two shops. In this Parish houses are badly needed to house agricultural workers, and the workers at the Wireless Station and a large Quarry. However, although tenders for carrying out this work were invited in the Trade and Local Papers not a single tender was received.

Efforts to obtain suitable prices, which would be acceptable to the Ministry, have so far led to nothing.

A very serious view of the difficulties experienced in trying to obtain tenders is now taken by the Council.

Although every effort has been made to erect badly needed houses, it now appears to be plain that Builders cannot submit tenders at prices which fall within the Ministry ceiling figures.

It is considered that rising prices in the cost of materials has much to do with this, but the main reason for the high cost of building in this Rural Area is the fact that workmen have to be transported long distances to and from work, and the cost of having to do this naturally adds considerably to the cost. A solution to this serious problem will have to be found, as the Council is now in the unhappy position of not being able to build any houses at all.

#### HOUSES BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

During the year, four houses were built by private enterprise.

#### RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS

Nine Houses were reconstructed or modernised during the year.



DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE - Apart from the building of Sewage Disposal Plants on the Council's Housing Estates, there has been no change during the year. Improvements have been carried out in the methods of disposing effluent from the laundry and kitchen of Brynhyfryd Hospital Forden. This effluent formerly discharged direct into a ditch, and gave rise to a nuisance. It is now disposed of through a herring bone pattern of field pipes laid in a nearby field.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS

The position is exactly the same as reported for many years but it is hoped that the scavenging of the whole of the District, as commented upon below, will stop the dumping of rubbish in the rivers and streams.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

By arrangement with the Welshpool Borough Council, domestic refuse is collected from a number of houses in the Parishes of Berriew and Forden, but it has now been decided to scavenge the whole of the District, and a new refuse collecting vehicle has been ordered. Difficulty has been experienced in finding rubbish tips, but a very large dis-used quarry situated in the Parish of Churchstoke, which has been used for very many years as a rubbish tip for the Parish of Churchstoke only, will be used for the whole area, until such time as other suitable sites can be found. This progressive step in scavenging the whole of the area is an important one, as unsightly unofficial rubbish dumps will no longer be seen.

#### MILK SUPPLY

The County Agricultural Executive Committee, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, supervise methods of production and inspect farm premises connected with milk production. So far as distribution is concerned, there are no complaints.

#### MEAT INSPECTION

The Slaughtering of animals for human consumption is still centralised, and for this area is carried out at Newtown, under Government arrangements. Shops and vans are kept under supervision, and during the year, everything was satisfactory.

#### BAKEHOUSES

The three Bakehouses in the District are regularly inspected, and conditions are satisfactory.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The District has been regularly inspected, and where defects have been found, they have been remedied as far as possible, still having regard to the restrictions on man power and materials. A number of major and minor works of repair and improvements have been carried out, but much remains to be done.

The provisions of the Housing Act 1949, under which grants are again available for reconditioning and bringing houses up to standard, have not attracted any applications from owners for grants.





However as a Building Licence ceiling figure for this area is only £790.0.0 per quarter, if applications had been received and schemes approved, it may have been very difficult to issue licences to enable owners to complete the schemes.

#### SCHOOLS

All schools in the District are in fair sanitary condition. As mentioned under "Water" a pipe supply has been laid on to the Churchstoke School.

#### GENERAL

Complaints received - Twenty four.

Samples of Water taken- Two

Premises disinfected - Two

The section of this report dealing with water supply, Housing etc, was kindly supplied by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr F Hunt, and I take this opportunity of thanking him and the Clerk to the Rural District Council for their assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am  
Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

D.R.B. MATHIAS

Medical Officer of Health.

